CURRENTLY PENDING CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations for ~~A method of~~ initiating a handoff in a wireless communication system among a mobile station and a plurality of cells, the operations comprising ~~the steps of~~:

transmitting a first pilot strength measurement message from a mobile station to a base station;

assigning a Walsh code channel for a first forward link dedicated control channel;

assigning a Walsh function to the mobile station to provide early soft handoff capability to a first forward dedicated traffic channel; and

transmitting a first message type (eghdm) from a base station to a mobile station containing information to start reception by the mobile station on the forward dedicated control channel of said first message.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~method as in claim 1~~ machine-readable medium of claim 1, the operations further including ~~the step of~~:

conveying a predetermined time interval to the mobile station within said first message type.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~method as in claim 2~~ machine-readable medium of claim 2, the operations further including ~~the step of~~:

starting a timer based on a time of reception of said first message type.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~method as in claim 3~~ machine-readable medium of claim 3, the operations further including ~~the step of~~:

incrementing the timer until its value exceeds a predetermined threshold (t_dcch);

measuring a received pilot signal strength; and

if said received pilot signal strength exceeds a predetermined (IS95B) threshold, adding the associated pilot to an Active set for a forward dedicated control channel.

5. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations for ~~A method of~~ initiating a handoff in a wireless communication system among a mobile station and a plurality of base stations, the operations comprising ~~the steps of~~:

transmitting a first pilot strength measurement message from a mobile station to a base station to add a new pilot to its active set for a forward data control channel; and

optionally transmitting at least one additional pilot strength measurement signal from the mobile station to the base station to add a pilot to its active set for a forward dedicated traffic channel.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~method of claim 5~~ machine-readable medium of claim 5, the operations further including ~~the step of~~:

adding a field in a first message (ESPM) and second message (GHDM) when a measured pilot strength in a predetermined group exceeds a calculated threshold.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~method of claim 6~~ machine-readable medium of claim 6 wherein said predetermined group is one of neighbor set and remaining set.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~method of claim 7~~ machine-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the measured pilot strength satisfies:

$$10\times\log_{10} PS > \max\left(\frac{SOFT\_SLOPE}{8}\times 10\times\log_{10}\sum_{i\in A} PS_i + \frac{ADD\_INTERCEPT\_dcch}{2}, \frac{T\_ADD}{2}\right)$$

wherein the summation is performed over all pilots in an active set, and SOFT_SLOPE and ADD_INTERCEPT are base station configurable parameters.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~method as in claim 8~~ machine-readable medium of claim 6, the operations further including ~~the step of~~:

conveying a predetermined time interval to the mobile station within said first message type.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~method of claim 9~~ machine-readable medium of claim 9, the operations further including ~~the step of~~:

starting a timer based on a time of reception of said first message type.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~method of claim 10~~ machine-readable medium of claim 10, the operations further including ~~the step of~~:

incrementing the timer until its value exceeds a predetermined threshold (t_dcch);

measuring a received pilot signal strength; and

if said received pilot signal strength exceeds a predetermined (IS95B) threshold, adding the associated pilot to an Active set for a forward dedicated control channel.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for initiating a handoff in a wireless communication system among a mobile station and a plurality of cells, the apparatus comprising:

a processor configured to

~~means for transmitting~~ transmit a first pilot strength measurement message from a mobile station to a base station;

~~means for assigning~~ assign a Walsh code channel for a first forward link dedicated control channel;

~~means for assigning~~ assign a Walsh function to the mobile station to provide early soft handoff capability to a first forward dedicated traffic channel; and

~~means for transmitting~~ transmit a first message type (eghdm) from a base station to a mobile station containing information to start reception by the mobile station on the forward dedicated control channel of said first message;

and

a memory coupled to the processor for storing data.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~as in~~ of claim 12 wherein the processor is further ~~including~~ configured to:

~~means for conveying~~ convey a predetermined time interval to the mobile station within said first message type.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the processor is further ~~including~~ configured to:

~~means for starting~~ start a timer based on a time of reception of said first message type.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is further ~~including~~ configured to:

~~means for incrementing~~ increment the timer until its value exceeds a predetermined threshold (t_dcch);

~~means for measuring~~ measure a received pilot signal strength; and

~~means for adding~~ add the associated pilot to an Active set for a forward dedicated control channel if said received pilot signal strength exceeds a predetermined (IS95B) threshold.

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~of~~ for initiating a handoff in a wireless communication system among a mobile station and a plurality of base stations, the apparatus comprising:

a processor cofigured to

~~means for transmitting~~ transmit a first pilot strength measurement message from a mobile station to a base station to add a new pilot to its active set for a forward data control channel; and

~~means for~~ optionally ~~transmitting~~ transmit at least one additional pilot strength measurement signal from the mobile station to the base station to add a pilot to its active set for a forward dedicated traffic channel.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the processor is further ~~including~~ configured to:

~~means for adding~~ add a component to a first message (ESPM) and second message (GHDM) when a measured pilot strength in a predetermined group exceeds a calculated threshold.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said predetermined group is one of neighbor set and remaining set.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the measured pilot strength satisfies:

$$10\times\log_{10} PS > \max(\frac{SOFT\_SLOPE}{8}\times 10\times\log_{10}\sum_{i\in A} PS_i + \frac{ADD\_INTERCEPT\_dcch}{2}, \frac{T\_ADD}{2})$$

wherein the summation is performed over all pilots in an active set, and SOFT_SLOPE and ADD_INTERCEPT are base station configurable parameters.

20. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~as in claim 8~~ of claim 19 wherein the processor is further ~~including~~ configured to:

~~means for conveying~~ convey a predetermined time interval to the mobile station within said first message type.

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~as in claim 9~~ of claim 20 wherein the processor is further ~~including~~ configured to:

~~means for starting~~ start a timer based on a time of reception of said first message type.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the processor is further ~~including~~ configured to:

~~means for incrementing~~ increment the timer until its value exceeds a predetermined threshold (t_dcch);

~~means for measuring~~ measure a received pilot signal strength; and

~~means for adding~~ add the associated pilot to an Active set for a forward dedicated control channel if said received pilot signal strength exceeds a predetermined (IS95B) threshold.